

Remarks

Reconsideration and allowance of the present patent application based on the following remarks are respectfully requested.

By this Amendment, claims 18, 23, 29 and 31 are amended and claims 20 and 25 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter therein. Claims 18 and 23 are amended to recite the allowable subject matter of claims 20 and 25, respectively. No new matter has been added. Accordingly, after entry of this Amendment, claims 18-19, 23-24 and 26-31 will remain pending in the application.

Claims 18-19, 23-24, 26-28 and 30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) based on Weindorf (U.S. Pub. No. 2002/0118182). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 18 and 23 have been amended to recite the features of claims 20 and 25, respectively, which have been allowable. Therefore, claims 18 and 23, as amended, are patentable.

Claims 19, 28 are patentable over the cited portions of Weindorf at least by virtue of their dependency from claim 18 and for the additional features recited therein.

Claims 24, 26-27 and 30 are patentable over the cited portions of Weindorf at least by virtue of their dependency from claim 23 and for the additional features recited therein.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 18-19, 23-24, 26-28 and 30 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) based on Weindorf are respectfully requested.

Claims 20, 25, 29 and 31 were objected to but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claim. In response, the features of claims 20 and 25 have been included in claims 18 and 23, respectively. Claims 29 and 31 are patentable over the cited portions of Weindorf at least by virtue of their dependency from claims 18 and 23, respectively.

Having addressed each of the foregoing rejections, it is respectfully submitted that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the application is in condition for allowance. Notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

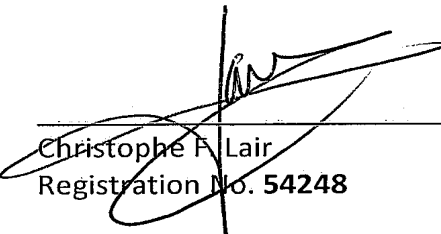
If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Please charge any fees associated with the submission of this paper to Deposit Account Number 033975. The Commissioner for Patents is also authorized to credit any over payments to the above-referenced Deposit Account.

Date: March 23, 2009

Respectfully submitted, r

By:


Christophe F. Lair
Registration No. 54248

Customer No. 00909

PILLSBURY WINTHROP SHAW PITTMAN LLP
P.O. Box 10500
McLean, Virginia 22102
Main: 703-770-7900
Direct Dial: 703-770-7797
Fax: 703-770-7901